



Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS / EMA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2014

MidSouth Winter Weather Awareness Week

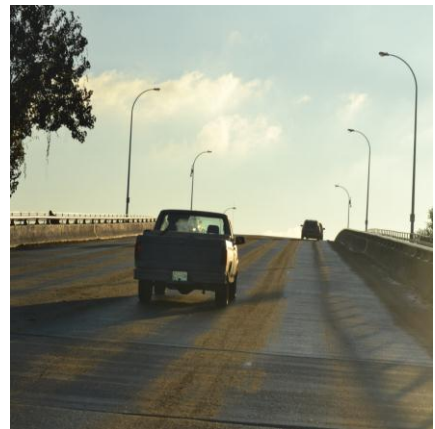


Photo Captions: Left: mailbox dusted with snow, Middle: iced-over mustang, Right: "salted" A.W. Willis Bridge downtown

November 17 – 22, 2014 is Winter Weather Awareness Week for the MidSouth. It began when the National Weather Service issued a "winter weather advisory," 0.2 inches of snow fell, and citizens woke to a wind chill of 14F. Salt trucks had pre-treated bridges and overpasses ahead of the precipitation and citizens were briefed throughout Sunday to expect a wintry mix early Monday, November 17. Shelby County Office of Preparedness (SCOP) staff and law enforcement checked road conditions throughout the night. Due to these collective preparedness efforts, schools were open, and the morning commute was smooth for most travelers.

Winter weather can be inconvenient, hazardous, and even deadly. Icy roads can snarl traffic and cause fatalities. One tenth of an inch of sleet on limbs and power lines can cause wide-spread power outages. Other winter weather hazards include injuries and fires from incorrect use of indoor heaters and hypothermia or frostbite from exposure to extreme cold. Preparing for winter weather can make a difference! SCOP encourages citizens to stay informed to survive winter weather. Here are some tips:

Keep an all-hazards NOAA radio with a battery back-up, tone alert, and the Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) feature and an ALERTFM receiver with you. Upload free weather apps such as ReadyTN (www.tema.gov), ALERTFM (www.alertfm.org), or Weather (www.weather.com) to your mobile devices. Listen for these weather terms and plan how to shelter-in-place or evacuate as needed:

- **Outlook:** Winter weather expected in 2 – 5 days
- **Advisory:** Winter weather may cause significant inconveniences, use caution!
- **Watch:** Winter weather is possible in 36 – 48 hours
- **Warning:** Life threatening severe winter weather will begin in 24 hours or less! Prepare now!

For more information please visit: www.fema.org, www.ready.gov, and www.staysafeshelby.us

End of Release